

F-1-190

J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead
Adamstown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1845-1940

The J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead is composed of a brick dwelling built about 1878-1880 with a log rear wing which may date from about 1845-1850. Other buildings in the farmstead are a frame bank barn of about 1875-1880, a frame wagon shed/corn crib, a log smokehouse, and a chicken house converted to a garage. The dwelling is ornamented with an unusual dentil cornice with "nailhead" trim and two painted and grained slate mantelpieces of the 1880's. The log wing is covered with vinyl siding and the log smokehouse has german siding. These two structures probably pre-date the brick main section of the house, which has a one-story porch and segmental arched openings. This part may date from about 1878-1880 when J. Franklin Thomas purchased the farm from his father and remodeled the existing dwelling and built the bank barn. The elder Thomas had bought the property in 1845. J. Franklin Thomas was known as a profitable farmer who went on to buy other properties in addition to the subject farm. Its significance is based on the log construction of the wing and the smokehouse and the unusual trim and fine slate mantels of the brick section.

F-1-190

J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead
Adamstown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period, A.D. 1930 - Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop

Known Design Source: None

Survey No. F-1-190

Williams, T.J.C., & Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979 1432-1434.

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8. Significance

Survey No. F-1-190

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates C. 1845 - C. 1940 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead is moderately significant in architecture principally for the vernacular style of the brick section of the dwelling and the log construction of the rear wing and the smokehouse. These are common features in the mid 19th century building context in Frederick County. The distinguishing features of the Thomas house are the articulation of the dentil cornice and the interior painted slate mantelpieces. The house was probably originally the two-story log section which is now the rear wing, built possibly in the late 1840's after the farm was purchased by George Thomas of Henry (1798-1883). His son J. Franklin Thomas (1843-1921) farmed the property for seven years prior to buying the 227-acre farm from his father in 1878. According to Williams & McKinsey's 1910 story of Frederick County, J. Franklin Thomas "remodeled the dwelling, built a bank barn, and all needed outbuildings, and by scientific management of the land made it one of the fine farms of the district. For some years he had a very extensive and profitable dairy." This account appears to be consistent with the apparent sequence of construction in the existing buildings. The profitability of the Thomas family farms throughout the Adamstown Planning Region is revealed in the often fine decorative details, such as the unusual cornice and the slate mantels in the J. Franklin Thomas house.

Some of the other Thomas family farms in the Adamstown Region with similar distinguishing characteristics are the Dutrow-Thomas Farmstead (F-1-175) and the Castle-Thomas Farmstead (F-1-191). These houses were also built by previous owners, but the subsequent Thomas owners added interior and exterior features as well as more outbuildings which are now elements in their historical significance.

7. Description

Survey No. F-1-190

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 5

The J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead is a formerly agricultural complex, now principally a private residence, centered on a two-story brick dwelling built about 1850 with a log rear wing and its associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings, including a log smokehouse of about 1850, a frame chicken house of the early 20th century converted to a garage and storage shed, a frame wagon shed/corn crib of about 1875, and a frame and stone bank barn of about the same date. A non-contributing concrete block milk house remains near the foundation of a dairy barn which burned on January 30, 1993. Several non-contributing structures built from the mid-1950's to the 1980's are also in the grouping. The farmstead is located on the north side of Cap Stine Road about 200 yards northwest of the intersection with Ballenger Creek Pike (Md. 180) near Adamstown, Frederick County, Maryland. The house stands on a knoll and faces southeast, with the outbuildings located north and northwest of the dwelling. The open fields surrounding the farmstead make it fully visible from both Cap Stine and Ballenger Creek Pike. Dates for the buildings are based on land records, local histories, historical maps, and architectural details.

The dwelling is painted white, as are most of the outbuildings. The southeast elevation has five bays with a center entrance and a one-story porch with a projecting central pavilion over the steps to the concrete porch deck. The porch columns are square with fluted panels and the porch roof has a dentil cornice. The door and window openings have segmental arches with articulated brick keystones. The doorway has a two-light transom and sidelights. The door has arched molding panels. The sash is 2/2. The cornice has a dentil molding with nailhead-like buttons on each dentil. The roof is patterned slate with interior end chimneys. The south elevation has two bays with 2/2 windows and two 2/2 attic windows. The north elevation has only the 2/2 attic windows. The rear wing extends from the southwest corner of the main section. It has vinyl siding covering german siding over the log structure. One-story shed porches are on both the north and south sides of the wing, each with chamfered posts and corrugated metal roofs. Land records and local histories suggest that the wing may have been built around 1845-1850, prior to the erection of the brick main section. The windows in the wing are 6/6 with louvred shutters. The interior of the house has been considerably altered in terms of wall and floor finishes, but the two parlors flanking the central hall have painted and grained slate mantelpieces typical of the 1880's. The door and window surrounds have bull's eye corner blocks and fluted frames. The stairway has a scroll-sawn closer decoration.

Smokehouse: The one-story log smokehouse is located north of the house and has german siding and a corrugated metal roof over the original shingles. A vertical board door is located in the south elevation. The gables on the east and west elevations are flush vertical boards. The smokehouse dates from at least about 1850 and may be as old as the log rear wing.

Chicken house/garage: The frame chicken house is located northwest of the dwelling. Possibly built about 1910-1920, the building is a rectangular structure.

(Continued on separate sheet)

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes xno

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3663B Cap Stine Road not for publicationcity, town Adamstown x vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> x occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> </u> x building(s)	<u> </u> x private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> x private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> x yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> x not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Paul M. & Blanche M. Biser

street & number 3663B Cap Stine Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 514

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 102

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7.1 Description (Continued)

with vertical board and german siding and a corrugated metal shed roof. According to Mr. Paul Biser, the current owner, the vertical siding was originally part of a wood stave silo that was demolished in the 1950's. When the chicken house was converted for use as a garage, an enlarged opening on the north end was made. A second garage section is an addition on the north end of the chicken house. It has board and batten siding and a gable corrugated metal roof.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed with corn cribs is located north of the garage. It appears to have been built during the period 1875 to 1900 and has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. The drive passage is oriented to the south.

Bank barn: The frame bank barn was probably built about 1875-1880, according to the historical account in Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910) on J. Franklin Thomas. It has board and batten and vertical siding with a corrugated metal roof over the original shingles. Louvred vents in arched openings are on all elevations.

3663 Cap Stone Rd.

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio

Grantee

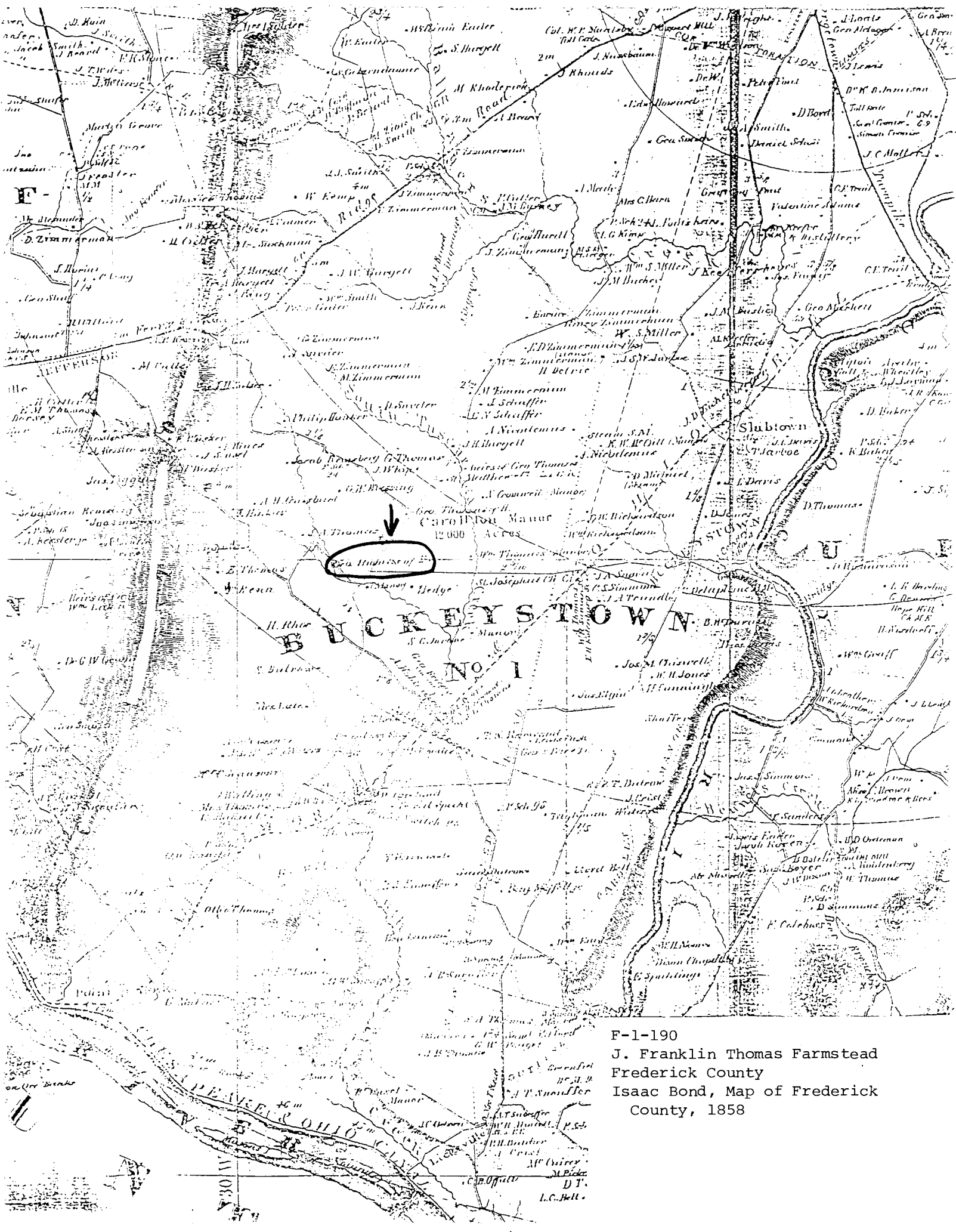
Grantor

Cost

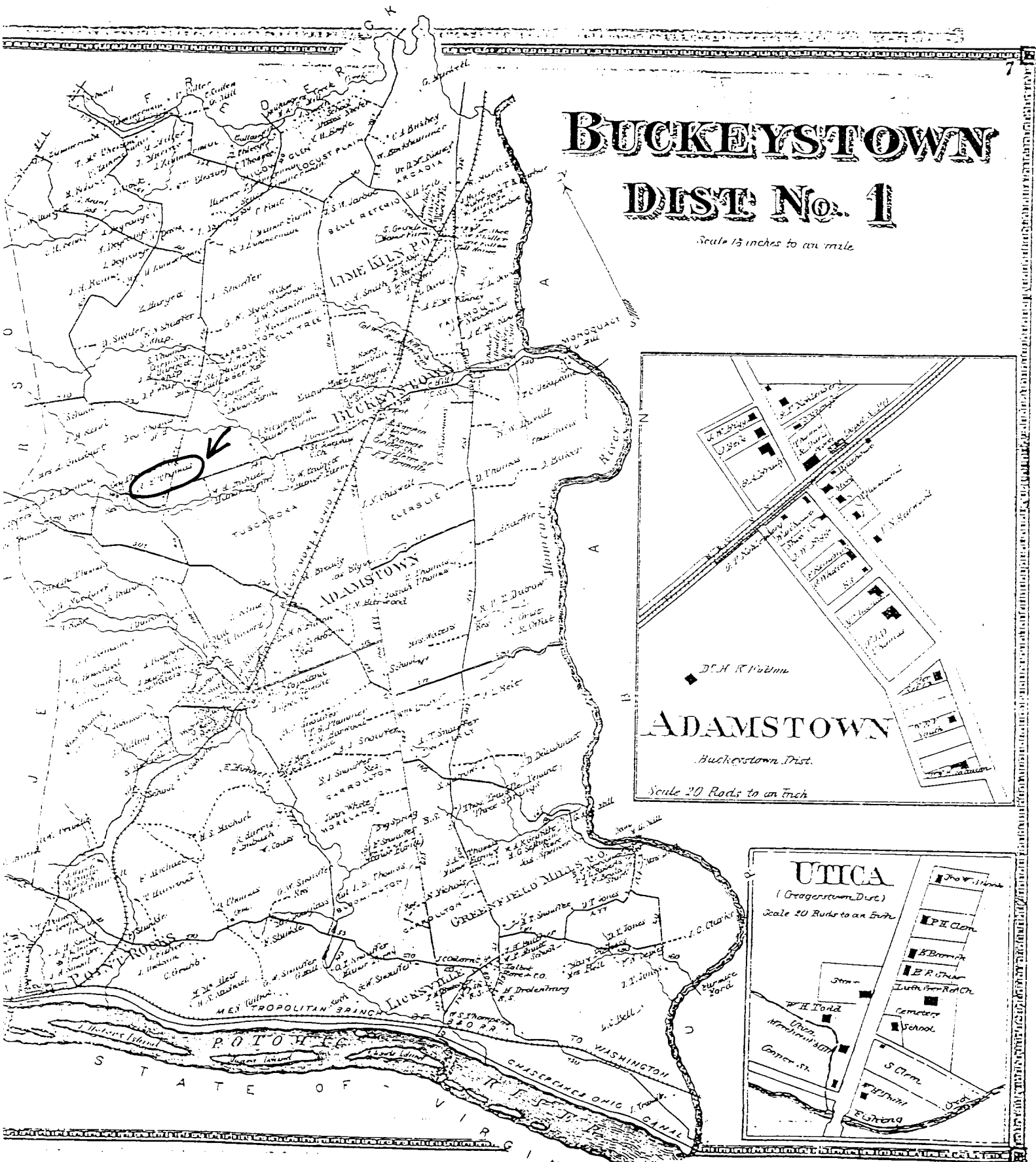
Miscellaneous

514/102 23 Mar 53	Paul M. & Blanche M. Beser	Eric C. & Lizzie A. Beser	227A., 39 sq. p.		
441/521 28 Mar 44	Eric C. & Lizzie A. Beser	Clara L. Thomas widow	227A. 39 sq. p.		
433/325 17 Feb 42	Edgar L. & Clara L. Thomas	Dorothy E. Keyes	227A. 39 sq. p.		
433/324 17 Feb 42	Dorothy E. Keyes	Edgar L. & Clara L. Thomas			
HWB 308/371 6 Apr 14	Edgar L. Thomas	John Franklin Thomas et al			
TG 9/660 26 July 1878	John Franklin Thomas	George Thomas of H. & Julian Thomas	227A. 39 sq. p. George Thomas retains right to enter premises with horses, carts, & servants to repair water pipes from spring on premises to his dwelling	\$11,362.18	
WBT 1/122 3 Apr 1845	George Thomas of H.	William Giddings	235A. 77 p.	\$8,077.65	
HS 19/147 19 Oct 1843	William Giddings	James Giddings & Louisa Giddings	260A.	\$10,800	
HS 19/69 17 Jan 1831	James Giddings	Mm. Ross, Trustee in Equity 1527, to sell land to Joseph Smith	260A.	\$10,800	

F-1-190



F-1-190
J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858



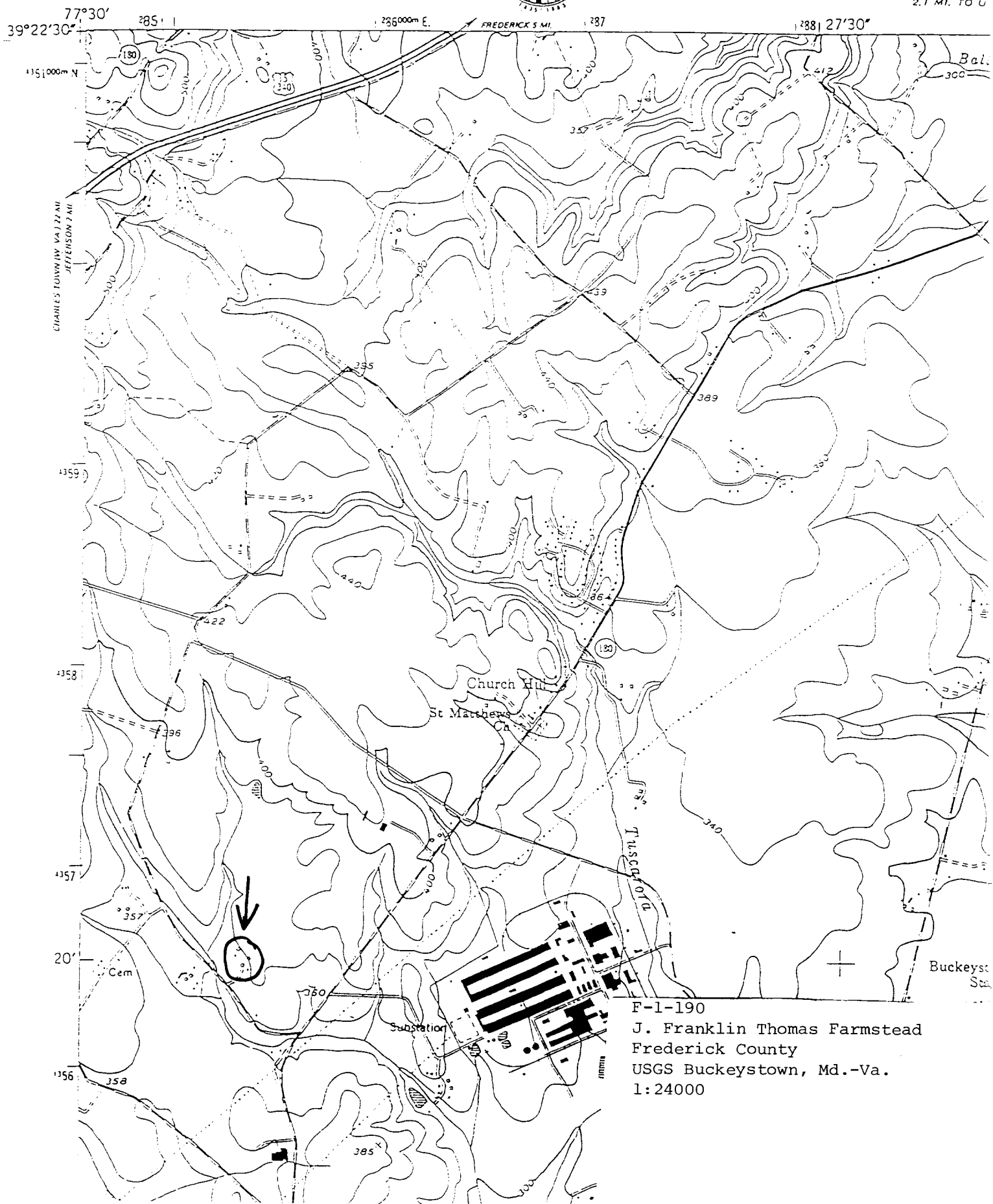
F-1-190
J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873

3462 (NE)
(MIDDLETOWN)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



FREDERICK
2.1 MI. TO U





F-1-190

J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

East elevation

1/6



F-1-190

J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

North elevation of bear wing

2/6



F-1-190

J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

Mantel piece, west parlor

3/6



F-1-190

J. Franklin Thomas - Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Smokehouse, southeast elevation

4/6



F. 1-190

J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Bank barn and wagon shed/corn crib,
east elevations

5/6



F-1-190

J. Franklin Thomas Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO. Crownsville Md.

Chicken house / garage, southeast elevation

6/6